

**Eastern Region Rowing Council AGM 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7.30pm  
Held virtually**

**Attendees**

Andrew Blit (Chair)  
Mike Arnold (Cantabrigian RC)  
Mike Arnott (Sudbury RC)  
Paul Ashmore (St.Ives RC)  
Teresa Aslett (Recreational Committee and Isle of Ely RC)  
Jo Baxter (Lea RC)  
Gill Cooper (Cantabrigian RC)  
Ian Donald (Star Club)  
Piers Hermann (Yare BC)  
Nick Hubble (Peterborough City RC)  
Mike Hunter (Cantabrigian RC)  
Antoinette Jucker (Lea RC)  
Frances Kemp (Yare BC)  
Bill Key (Cambridgeshire Rowing Association)  
Sophie Lovegrove (Sudbury RC)  
Antony Moule (Sudbury RC)  
Helen Middleton (Regional Rep and Norwich High School BC)  
Lydia Swift (Bedford RC)  
Tracy Muir (Regional Coaching Committee and Sudbury RC)  
Tony Nelder (City of Cambridge RC)  
Vicky Parry (Isle of Ely RC)  
Nick Siragher (Cantabrigian RC)  
Will Schofield (City of Cambridge RC)  
Emma Stratton (Oundle Town RC)  
Brian Thompson (Northampton RC)  
Seb Walker (Regional Rep and City of Cambridge RC)  
Karen Wilson (Regional Masters Rep and Milton Keynes RC)  
Ash Wyatt (British Rowing and Lea RC)  
Simon Reeves (Guest – British Rowing Board and Trafford RC)

**Apologies for Absence**

Joanna Cotgrove (Regional Umpires Commission and Isle of Ely RC)  
Stella Isaac (Regional Rep and Jesus College BC)  
Richard Maxey (Isle of Ely RC)  
Matt Pooley (Lea RC)

**I. Welcome**

Andrew Blit welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

## 2. Minutes of Meeting of Annual General Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020

The Minutes of the 2020 AGM were approved as an accurate record.

A minute's silence was observed to honour all those who had been lost to the sport in the past year.

## 3. Annual Accounts to approve

Mike Arnold raised the matter of the substantial balance in the Regional Accounts and made suggestions for spend against this. Andrew Blit commented that the balance had been reduced from over £40,000 to the current figure over the last 6 years and thanked Mike for his suggestions for further spend.

The Meeting agreed to continue the existing scheme for supporting club coach qualifications.

The Meeting approved the accounts.

## 4. Appointment of Hon. Auditor

Andrew Blit proposed the reappointment of Robin de Vere Green. This proposal was seconded by Mike Arnold and passed without objection.

## 5. Election of Officers

### 5.1 Regional Chair

Andrew Blit explained that this election was deferred from 2020  
Andrew Blit was duly elected Chair for a further 3 year term from 2021

### 5.2 Regional Representative

Helen Middleton was duly elected as Representative for a 3<sup>rd</sup> 3 year term

### 5.3 Officers of the Council

The Meeting agreed to co-opt:  
Vice Chair Education and Training – Vicky Parry  
Honorary Secretary – Vacant  
Honorary Treasurer – Stephen Wyborn  
Water Safety Adviser (for approval) – Mark Goddard  
Umpires Committee (for approval) – Jo Cotgrove  
Junior Committee – Helen Knowles  
Masters Committee – Jo Baxter  
Teresa Aslett – Recreational Committee  
Nina Crouchman – Coastal Rowing  
Coach Education – to be confirmed  
Nick Hubble – co-opted member of the Executive

## 6. Presentation – East Anglia Youth Rowing

Seb Walker gave a presentation on East Anglia Youth Rowing. The presentation is available from the ER website [here](#).

Discussion followed. The project is at an early stage and clubs present expressed enthusiasm for expanding the reach and support available from the project.

## 7. Simon Reeves, British Rowing Director – Board matters, strategy, Q&A and feedback from this meeting to BR

Simon Reeves introduced discussion by reflecting on the current state of membership, international results, turbulence in the structure of the National Governing Body. These all present opportunities as well as challenge.

The NGB needs to roll up its sleeves to assist clubs to develop their own facilities, to develop funding opportunities and to respond better to the needs of the rowing community.

**Q:** Is there work being undertaken to review the competition structure in view of the drop out of young people after learning to row?

**A:** Discussion of pathways within clubs and the potential for the NGB to tweak the membership offer to reduce burdens on those entering the sport.

**Q:** What feedback has thus far been received from membership surveys and where is more still required?

**A:** Domestic rowing has, in the past, received edicts from Hammersmith (partly driven by funding requirements). The Executive and Board are determined to ‘reset’ and pivot towards an agenda driven by the domestic agenda. Full feedback has not yet been presented to the Board but responses have provided much original thought and ideas to which the NGB has not previously been exposed to. There has been a good level of engagement from clubs.

Further discussion of potential competition pathways, including the potential for a senior interregional. Nick Hubble commented that all thoughts are up for grabs. There still remains a hole for those are not interested or ready for 2k racing.

Nick Hubble commented that it is also for local competitions to be innovative.

Teresa Aslett said that the sport is not all about racing. There is a substantial cohort of rowers who will never wish to race. The discussion so far has not reflected this. Simon Reeves committed to supporting this agenda at Board level. The Meeting agreed that there needed to be a sea-change in attitude. Nick Hubble encouraged all to feed back up through the National Recreational Committee.

**Q:** Will the NGB seek to raise the profile of coaching in the domestic sport

**A:** There is still work to be done at a national level and Simon is challenging the executive to improve the offer to the membership.

**Q:** Can we get representation with the Canals & River Trust

**A:** Paul Lorenzato is working on this.

## 8. Regional awards – to include 2020

The Meeting celebrated all those people and clubs who had made such a contribution to the sport over the last 2 years – details are on the Regional website [here](#).

## 9. Chair's Report

Andrew Blit presented his report to the Region which is available [here](#).

## 10. ER Officer reports

Reports are available on the website [here](#).

## 11. AOB (to be notified)

There was no other business.

The Meeting was closed at 9.35

A recording of the Meeting is available [here](#).